UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK	V	DOCUMENT  CALLY FILED	ANT MODELLOW AND THE STATE OF T
ISIDRO GUTIERREZ, Plaintiff,	: : :	ORDER ORDER	s Many
V.  HIGHRIDGE BAGELS, INC., RAW BAGELS, INC., and ANTHONY IACCARINO,  Defendants.	: : :	17 CV 1451 (VB)	

On June 4, 2017, the parties in this Fair Labor Standards Act case filed a settlement agreement (Doc. #20, Ex. 1), and a joint statement explaining the basis for the agreement, for approval by the Court as required by <u>Cheeks v. Freeport Pancake House, Inc.</u>, 796 F.3d 199 (2d Cir. 2015).

The Court has considered the following factors: (i) the parties' position as to the proper valuation of plaintiff's claims; (ii) the risks and costs of continuing to litigate; (iii) that plaintiff is represented by counsel; (iv) that plaintiff no longer works for defendants; (v) that the settlement was reached as a result of the Court's mediation program; (vi) that the release set forth in paragraph 4 of the settlement agreement is limited to plaintiff's claims asserted in this action; (vii) that the settlement agreement does not contain confidentiality or non-disparagement provisions; (viii) that plaintiff is receiving approximately 60% of the estimated unpaid overtime wages claimed to be owed; (ix) the representation that defendants cannot afford to pay a higher settlement amount; and (x) the representation that all parties desire to resolve this action early and avoid the costs—financial and otherwise—associated with drawn-out litigation.

The Court finds that the settlement agreement as modified below is fair and reasonable, and the product of arm's-length negotiation, not fraud or collusion.

Additionally, the Court finds the attorneys' fees, which are one-third of the recovered amount plus costs, to be fair and reasonable under the circumstances.

## SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT MODIFICATION

Pursuant to paragraph 6 of the settlement agreement, the Court has the authority to modify and does hereby modify paragraph 14 ("Competency to Waive Claims") of the agreement as follows:

The words "all claims defined herein he may have against Defendant" are replaced with "all claims asserted in this action against Defendants."

## **CONCLUSION**

The parties' settlement agreement (Doc. #20, Ex. 1) as modified herein is APPROVED, and the case is DISMISSED with prejudice.

The status conference scheduled for June 23, 2017, is cancelled.

The Clerk is instructed to close this case.

Dated: June 12, 2017 White Plains, NY

July X

Vincent L. Briccetti

United States District Judge